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ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
THE INTERNET
RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2107

October 17, 2002

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The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing you regarding today's press reports that North Korea, after being confronted by U.S. intelligence information, has finally acknowledged that it has been conducting a major clandestine nuclear weapons development program for the last several years in violation of the 1994 Agreed Framework and its commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

These reports confirm the fears conveyed to you in March 2, 2001, February 5, 2002, and May 31, 2002 letters (see enclosures). In those letters we repeatedly urged you to reconsider plans to proceed with the prior Administration's commitment to support the construction of two light water nuclear reactors in North Korea in light of Kim Jong-Il's ongoing efforts to acquire a nuclear weapons capability. In our May 31, 2002 letter, we noted that the intelligence community had concluded in the mid-1990s that North Korea had produced one to two nuclear weapons, and warned that "the combination of this fact with recent reports that North Korea is currently operating a covert uranium processing facility should raise U.S. concerns that North Korea is continuing to operate a covert nuclear weapons program contrary to the intent of the Agreed Framework." The Administration's response to these concerns thus far has been inadequate. After labeling the North Korean regime part of an "axis of evil," our government has indicated its intention to proceed with efforts to implement the Agreed Framework with North Korea, including the planned transfer of both nuclear technology and fissile material that could be converted to use in weapons.

We believe that North Korea's many previously documented violations of the Agreed Framework over the last several years have long since nullified the agreement. North Korea's recent acknowledgment that it has been developing nuclear weapons for several years only adds to the list of violations. It is time for the United States to acknowledge that the Agreed Framework is dead and that America will no longer be willing, under any circumstances, to subsidize the transfer of nuclear technology to North Korea. Instead, the U.S. should immediately halt construction of these reactors, cease all nuclear cooperation with North Korea, and call upon South Korea and Japan to do the same.

The Honorable George W. Bush

October 17, 2002

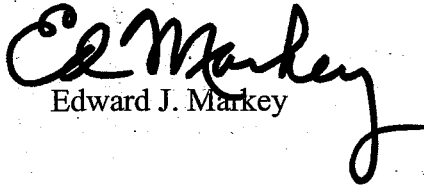
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In addition, we believe the U.S. should immediately halt all non-humanitarian subsidies of the North Korean government, including exports of fuel oil. It should move to block any such subsidies by international lending institutions or other governments until such time as North Korea agrees to end its nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction weapons programs and accept international inspectors to conduct on-demand, any-where, any-time inspections to verify that these programs have been dismantled.

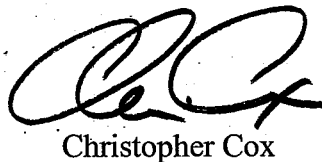
Finally, we believe the Administration needs to take the lead in assuring the international community responds strongly to the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons programs. We urge you to request urgent action by the UN Security Council to condemn North Korea for violating its nuclear non-proliferation commitments and to provide for an appropriate response if Kim Jong-Il fails to come into compliance.

We regard the North Korean weapons of mass destruction threat to be at least as serious as the threat posed by Iraq. We urge you to take a strong and vigorous response to this threat before it is too late.

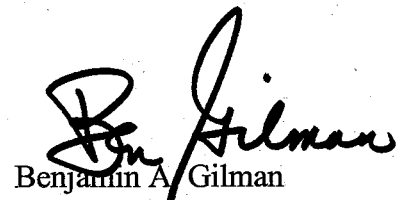
Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey



Christopher Cox



Benjamin A. Gilman